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Second Edition

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The New Oxford American Dictionary

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part of an apology: "Oops! I'm sorry. I just made you miss your bus." **oopsy-daisy** *exclam.* variant spelling of **upsy-daisy**.

Oort /ɔrt/ Jan Hendrik (1900–92), Dutch astronomer. He proved that the galaxy rotates and determined the position and orbital period of the sun within it.

Oort cloud *Astronomy* a spherical cloud of small rocky and icy bodies postulated to orbit the sun beyond the orbit of Pluto and up to 1.5 light years from the sun, and to be the source of comets. Its existence was proposed by J. H. Oort.

oosphere /'oʊ,spɪr/ *n.* Botany the female reproductive cell of certain algae or fungi, which is formed in the oogonium and when fertilized becomes the oospore.

oospore /'oʊ,spɔr/ *n.* Botany the thick-walled zygote of certain algae and fungi, formed by fertilization of an oosphere. Compare with **zygospore**.

Oosten-de /'oʊ,stiend/ Flemish name for **Ostend**.

ootherca /'oʊ,thēkə/ *n.* (pl. -cae [-sē; -kē]) Entomology the egg case of cockroaches, mantises, and related insects. **mid 19th cent.**: from **oo-** 'of an egg' + Greek *thēkē* 'receptacle.'

ooid /'oʊ,tɪd/ *n.* Biology a haploid cell formed by the meiotic division of a secondary oocyte, esp. the ovum, as distinct from the polar bodies. **early 20th cent.**: from **oo-** 'egg,' on the pattern of *spermatid*.

ooze /'oʊz/ *v.* [*intrins.*] (of a fluid) slowly trickle or seep out of something; flow in a very gradual way: blood was oozing from a wound in his scalp | honey oozed out of the comb. [*intrins.*] slowly exude or discharge a viscous fluid: her mosquito bites were oozing and itching like mad. [*trans.*] figurative give a powerful impression of (a quality): he oozed charm and poise | the town oozes history.

1 the sluggish flow of a fluid. **2** an infusion of oak bark or other vegetable matter, used in tanning. **Old English** wōs 'juice or sap'; the verb dates from late Middle English. —**oozy** /'oʊzi/ *adj.*

ooze *n.* wet mud or slime, esp. that found at the bottom of a river, lake, or sea. **Geology** a deposit of white or gray calcareous matter largely composed of foraminiferan remains, covering extensive areas of the ocean floor. **Old English** wōs; related to Old Norse *veisa* 'stagnant pool.' In Middle English and the 16th cent. the spelling was *wose* (rhyming with *repose*), but beginning in 1550 spellings imply a change in pronunciation and influence by **OOZE**. —**oozy** *adj.*

OP *abbr.* observation post. **1** (in the theater) opposite prompt. **2** organophosphate(s). **3** (in the Roman Catholic Church) *Ordo Praedicatorum* Order of Preachers (Dominican).

op /'ɒp/ *n.* informal a surgical or other operation.

op (also **op.**) *abbr.* Music *opus* (before a number given to each work of a particular composer, usually indicating the order of publication).

o.p. *abbr.* (of a book) out of print. **2** (of alcohol) overproof.

op- *suffix* **1** variant spelling of **ob-** **2** assimilated before *p* (as in *oppress, oppugn*).

opac-ify /'ɒpə,fi/ *v.* (-fies, -fied) technical make or become opaque. —**opac-i-fi-ca-tion** /'ɒpə,fi'kæʃən/ *n.* —**opac-ifier** *n.*

opac-ity /'ɒpə,si-ti/ *n.* the condition of lacking transparency or translucence; opaqueness: thinner paints need black added to increase opacity. **figurative** obscurity of meaning: the difficulty and opacity in Barthes' texts. **mid 16th cent.**: from French *opacité*, from Latin *opacitas*, from *opacus* 'darkened.'

opah /'ɒpə/ *n.* a large deep-bodied fish with a deep blue back, silvery belly, and crimson fins, living in deep oceanic waters. Also called **MOONFISH**. **Lampris guttatus**, family *Lampridae*. **mid 18th cent.**: a West African word.

opal /'ɒpəl/ *n.* a gemstone consisting of hydrated silica, typically semitransparent and showing varying colors against a pale or dark ground. **late 16th cent.**: from French *opale* or Latin *opalus*, probably based on Sanskrit *upala* 'precious stone' (having been first brought from India).

opal-escence /'ɒpə,lesnt/ *adj.* showing varying colors as an opal does. —**opal-escence** *n.*

opal glass *n.* a type of semitranslucent white glass. **opaline** /'ɒpə,li:n/ *adj.* another term for **OPALESCENT**.

op *n.* another term for **MILK GLASS**. **translucent** glass of a color other than white.

op-amp /'ɒp, ʌmp/ *abbr.* operational amplifier.

opaque /'ɒpə,ki/ *adj.* (**o-paque-er**, **o-paque-est**) not able to be seen through; not transparent: the windows were opaque with steam. **figurative** (esp. of language) hard or impossible to understand; unfathomable: technical jargon that was opaque to her.

n. an opaque thing or substance. **Photography** a substance for producing opaque areas on negatives. **late Middle English** *opake*, from Latin *opacus* 'darkened.' The current spelling (rare before the 19th cent.) has been influenced by the French form. —**opaquely** *adv.* —**opaqueness** *n.*

op art (also **opt-ical art**) *n.* a form of abstract art that gives the illusion of movement by the precise use of pattern and color, or in which conflicting patterns emerge and overlap. Bridget Riley and Victor Vasarely are its most famous exponents. **1960s**: on the pattern of *pop art*.

op. cit. /'ɒp, si/ *adv.* in the work already cited. **from Latin** *opere citato*.

ope /'ɒp/ *adj.* & *v.* poetic/literary or archaic form of **OPEN**.

OPEC /'ɒpek/ *abbr.* Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.

op-ed (also **Op-Ed**) *adj.* denoting or printed on the page opposite the editorial page in a newspaper, devoted to commentary, feature articles, etc. **1940s**: shortening of *opposite the editorial page*.

Opel /'ɒpel/, Wilhelm von (1871–1948), German automobile manufacturer. His company was the first in Germany to introduce assembly-line production. Opel was sold to General Motors in 1929.

Opelousas /'ɒpə,loʊsəs/ a city in south central Louisiana, north of Lafayette; pop. 22,860.

open /'ɒpən/ *adj.* **1** allowing access, passage, or a view through an empty space; not closed or blocked up: it was a warm evening and the window was open | the door was wide open. **2** (of a container) not fastened or sealed; in a position or with the lid or other covering in a position allowing access to the inside part or the contents: the case burst open and its contents flew all over the place. **3** (of a garment or its fasteners) not buttoned or fastened: his tie was knotted below the open collar of his shirt. **4** (of the mouth or eyes) with lips or lids parted: his eyes were open but he could see nothing. **5** free from obstructions: the pass is kept open all year by snowplows. **6** informal (of a car or house) unlocked.

Phonetics (of a vowel) produced with a relatively wide opening of the mouth and the tongue kept low. **Phonetics** (of a syllable) ending in a vowel. **2** (of the bowels) not constipated. **3** (of a game or style of play) characterized by action that is spread out over the field. **4** (attrib.) exposed to the air or to view; not covered: an open fire burned in the grate. **5** (of an area of land) not covered with buildings or trees; increasing numbers of new houses in open countryside.

6 having spaces or gaps between elements: air circulates more readily through an open tree. **7** (of a fabric) loosely knitted or woven. **8** (of a team member in a game) unguarded and therefore able to receive a pass: the trick is spreading the defense so that at least one receiver gets open. **9** (of a goalmouth or other object of attack in a game) unprotected; vulnerable. **10** (of a boat) without a deck: days without food and water in an open boat. **11** (predic.) (open to) likely to suffer from or be affected by; vulnerable or subject to: the system is open to abuse. **12** (of a town or city) officially declared to be undefended, and so immune under international law from bombardment. **13** with the outer edges or sides drawn away from each other; unfolded: the trees had buds and a few open flowers. **14** (of a book or file) with the covers parted or the contents in view, allowing it to be read: she was copying verses from an open Bible | figurative her mind was an open book to him. **15** (of a hand) not clenched into a fist. **16** (as complement) damaged or injured by a deep cut in the surface: he had his arm slashed open. **17** (predic.) (of a store, place of entertainment, etc.) officially admitting customers or visitors; available for business: the store stays open until 9 p.m. **18** (of a bank account) available for transactions: the minimum required to keep the account open. **19** (of a telephone line) ready to take calls: our free advice line is open from 8:30 to 5:30. **20** (of a choice, offer, or opportunity) still available; such that people can take advantage of it: the offer is open while supplies last | we need to consider what options are left open. **21** (of a person) frank and communicative; not given to deception or concealment: she was open and naive | I was quite open about my views. **22** not concealed; manifest: his eyes showed open admiration. **23** (attrib.) (of conflict) fully developed and unconcealed: the dispute erupted into open war. **24** involving no concealment, restraint, or deception; welcoming

discussion, criticism, and inquiry: the conclusions were reached in open discussion. **25** (of a question, case, or decision) not finally settled; st. II admitting of debate: students' choice of major can be kept open until the second year. **26** (of the mind) accessible to new ideas; unprejudiced: I'm keeping an open mind about my future. **27** (predic.) (open to) receptive to: the union was open to suggestions for improvements. **28** (predic.) (open to) admitting of; making possible: the message is open to different interpretations. **29** freely available or accessible; offered without restriction: the service is open to all students at the university. **30** with no restrictions on those allowed to attend or participate: an open audition was announced. **31** (also **Open**) (of an award or the competition for it) unrestricted as to who may qualify to compete: each horse had won two open races. **32** (of a ticket) not restricted as to day of travel. **33** Music (of a string) allowed to vibrate along its whole length. **34** (of a pipe) unstopped at each end. **35** (of a note) sounded from an open string or pipe. **36** (of an electrical circuit) having a break in the conducting path. **37** Mathematics (of a set) not containing any of its limit points.

v. [*trans.*] **1** move or adjust (a door or window) so as to leave a space allowing access and view: she opened the door and went in | [*intrins.*] "Open up!" he said. **2** [*intrins.*] (of a door or window) be moved or adjusted to leave a space allowing access and view: the door opened and a man came out. **3** undo or remove the lid, cover, or fastener of (a container) to get access to the contents: he opened a bottle inexpertly, spilling some of the wine. **4** remove the covers or wrappings from: can we open the presents now? **5** part the lips or lids of (a mouth or eye): she opened her mouth to argue. **6** [*intrins.*] (of the mouth or eyes) have the lips or lids parted in this way: her eyes slowly opened. **7** (of a wound) lose or lack its protective covering: old wounds opened and I bled a little bit. **8** improve or make possible access to or passage through: the president announced that his government would open the border. **9** cause evacuation of (the bowels). **10** [*intrins.*] (open onto/into) (of a room, door, or window) give access to: beautiful French doors that opened onto a balcony. **11** [*intrins.*] (of a panorama) come into view; spread out before someone: stop to marvel at the views that open out below. **12** Nautical achieve a clear view of (a place) by sailing past a headland or other obstruction: we shall open Simon's Bay at any minute now. **13** spread out; unfold: the eagle opened its wings and circled up into the air | the tail looks like a fan when it is opened out fully. **14** [*intrins.*] be unfolded; spread out to the full extent: the flowers never opened beyond narrow points. **15** increase the spaces or gaps between elements of (something): spacing the scaffolds opens up the tree so light can penetrate. **16** part the covers or display the contents of (a book or file) to read it: she opened her book at the prologue. **17** [*intrins.*] (open up) become wider or more spacious: the path opened out into a glade. **18** allow public access to: one woman raised \$731 by opening her home and selling coffee and tea. **19** make available: the new plan proposed to open up opportunities to immigrants. **20** make more widely known; reveal: the move may force the company to open up its plans for the future. **21** [*intrins.*] (open up) become more communicative or confiding: neither one of them had opened up to me about their troubles. **22** make (one's mind or heart) more receptive or sympathetic: open your mind to what is going on around you. **23** (open someone (up) to) make someone vulnerable to: the process is going to open them to a legal threat. **24** establish (a new business, movement, or enterprise): they have opened a new restaurant across the street. **25** [*intrins.*] (of an enterprise, esp. a commercial one) be established: two new restaurants open this week. **26** [*intrins.*] (of a store, place of entertainment, etc.) be officially ready to receive customers or visitors: become ready for business: the mall didn't open until 10. **27** take the action required to make ready for use: they have the \$10 necessary to open a savings account | click twice to open a file. **28** [*intrins.*] (of a meeting or a sporting or artistic event) formally begin: the incident occurred just before the Olympic Games were due to open. **29** [*intrins.*] (of a piece of writing or music) begin: the chapter opens with a discussion of Anglo-American relations. **30** (open up) [*intrins.*] (of a process) start to develop; a new and dramatic phase was opening up. **31** officially or ceremonially declare (a building, road, etc.) to be completed and ready for use: we will have to wait until a new bypass

Pronunciation Key ə ago; ɔ over; 'ə or, 'ə up; 'er or, 'or fur; ʌ hat; ʌ rate; ʌ car; ɔH chew; ɛ let; ɛ see; e(ə)r air; i fit; i by; i(ə)r ear; ɪNG sing; ɔ go; ɔ for; ɔi boy; ɔd good; ɔd goo; ɔu out; SH she; TH thin; TH then; (h)w why; 2H vision

is opened before we can tackle the problem of congestion. ■ [of a counsel in a court of law] make a preliminary statement in (a case) before calling witnesses. ■ [*trans.*] Bridge make (the first bid) in the auction. 5 break the conducting path of (an electrical circuit): the switch opens the motor circuit. ■ [*intrans.*] (of an electrical circuit or device) suffer a break in its conducting path.

► *phrasal v.* □ **open up** begin shooting: the enemy artillery had opened up. □ **open something up** 1 accelerate a motor vehicle. 2 (of an athlete or team) create an advantage for one's side: he opened up a lead of 14-8.

► *n.* 1 (Open) a championship or competition with no restrictions on who may qualify to compete: the venue for the British Open. 2 an accidental break in the conducting path for an electrical current. ► Old English open (adjective), *openan* (verb), of Germanic origin; related to Dutch *open* and German *offen*, from the root of the adverb *up*. — **open-able** *adj.* — **open-ness** *n.*

► *PHRASES* □ **be open** with speak frankly to; conceal nothing from: I had always been completely open with my mother. □ **in (or into) the open** out of doors; not under cover. ■ not subject to concealment or obfuscation; made public: we have never let our dislike for him come into the open. □ **in open court** in a court of law, before the judge and the public. □ **open-and-shut** (of a case or argument) admitting no doubt or dispute; straightforward. □ **open the door** to see poor. □ **open someone's eyes** see *eye*. □ **open fire** begin to shoot a weapon. □ **an open mind** see *mind*. □ **with one's eyes open** (or **with open eyes**) fully aware of the risks and other implications of an action or situation: I went into the job with my eyes open. □ **with open arms** see *ARM* 1.

► **open air** ► *n.* a free or unenclosed space outdoors: getting out in the open air.

► *adj.* positioned or taking place out of doors: an open-air swimming pool.

► **open bar** ► *n.* a bar at a special function at which the drinks have been paid for by the host or are prepaid through an admission fee.

► **open book** ► *n.* a person or thing that is easily understood or interpreted: my life's an open book.

► **Open Brethren** ► *n.* one of the two principal divisions of the Plymouth Brethren (the other is the Exclusive Brethren), formed in 1849 in Plymouth, England, as a result of doctrinal and other differences. The Open Brethren are less rigorous and less exclusive in matters such as conditions for membership and contact with outsiders than the Exclusive Brethren.

► **open-cast** /'open,kast/ ► *adj.* British term for **OPEN-PIT**.

► **open chain** ► *n.* Chemistry a molecular structure consisting of a chain of atoms with no closed rings.

► **open circuit** ► *n.* an electrical circuit that is not complete. — **open-circuited** *adj.*

► **open class-room** ► *n.* an approach to elementary education that emphasizes spacious classrooms where learning is informally structured, flexible, and individualized. ■ a spacious instructional area shared by several groups of elementary students that facilitates such an approach and the movement of students from one activity to another.

► **open cluster** ► *n.* Astronomy a relatively loose grouping of stars.

► **open communion** ► *n.* Christian Church communion made available to any Christian believer.

► **open date** ► *n.* a future date for which no event has yet been arranged.

► **open door** ► *n.* [*in sing.*] free or unrestricted means of admission or access: [as *adj.*] many companies encourage open-door management. ■ the policy or practice by which a country does not restrict the admission of immigrants or foreign imports: [as *adj.*] an open-door immigration policy.

► **open-ended** (also **open-end**) ► *adj.* having no determined limit or boundary: the return invitation was open-ended. ■ (of a question or set of questions) allowing the formulation of any answer, rather than a selection from a set of possible answers: the interview includes both open-ended and multiple-choice questions. — **open-ended-ness** *n.*

► **open enrollment** ► *n.* 1 the unrestricted enrollment of students at schools, colleges, or universities of their choice. 2 a period during which a health insurance company or HMO is statutorily required to accept applicants without regard to health history. ■ such a period when employees can change insurance plans offered by their employer, without proof of insurability.

► **open-er** /'öp(ə)nər/ ► *n.* 1 [usu. with *adj.*] a device for opening something, esp. a container: a bottle opener | a letter opener. 2 the first of a series of games, cultural events, etc.: the league opener is three weeks away. ■ the first point or points scored in a sports event. ■ a remark used as an excuse to initiate a conversation: we blurted out the obvious opener. ■ **Poker (openers)** a hand of sufficient value to allow the opening of betting.

► *PHRASE* □ **for openers** informal to start with; first of all: for openers, the car is roomier than the old model.

► **open-eyed** ► *adj.* with the eyes open or wide open. ■ figurative clear-sighted; perceptive; fully aware: an open-eyed approach to political manipulation. ■ with a sense of wonder, awe, etc.

► **open-faced** ► *adj.* 1 having a frank or ingenuous expression. 2 (of a watch) having no cover other than the glass. ■ (also **open-face**) (of a sandwich or pie) without an upper layer of bread or pastry.

► **open-handed** /'öpən'hænd/ ► *adj.* 1 (of a blow) delivered with the palm of the hand: an openhanded slap to the side of the face. 2 giving freely; generous: openhanded philanthropy. — **open-handed-ly** *adv.* — **open-hand-ness** *n.*

► **open-hearted** (also **open-hearted**) ► *adj.* expressing or displaying one's warm and kindly feelings without concealment: Betty's open-hearted goodwill. — **open-heart-ness** *n.*

► **open-hearth** ► *adj.* denoting a steelmaking process in which the charge is laid on a hearth in a shallow furnace and heated by burning gas.

► **open-heart surgery** ► *n.* surgery in which the heart is exposed and the blood made to bypass it.

► **open house** ► *n.* a place or situation in which all visitors are welcome: they kept open house, entertaining a wide variety of artists and writers. ■ a day when members of the public are invited to visit a place or institution, esp. one to which they do not normally have access: the president spent all morning greeting thousands of visitors to a White House open house. ■ an informal reception or party during which one's home is open to visitors: on New Year's Day they had an open house. ■ a time when real estate offered for sale is open to prospective buyers.

► **opening** /'öp(ə)nɪŋ/ ► *n.* 1 an aperture or gap, esp. one allowing access: she peered through one of the smaller openings. ■ figurative an opportunity to achieve something: they seem to have exploited fully the openings offered. ■ an available job or position: an opening for a professional engineer in the public works department. 2 a beginning; an initial part: Maya started tapping out the opening of her story. ■ a formal or official beginning: the official opening of the tourist season. ■ the occasion of the first performance of a play, movie, etc., or the start of an exhibition, marked by a celebratory gathering. ■ the occasion of a public building being officially ready for use, marked by a ceremony. ■ Chess a recognized sequence of moves at the beginning of a game. ■ an attorney's preliminary statement of a case in a court of law. ■ an open piece of ground in a wooded area; a clearing: I reached an opening in the forest.

► *adj.* [*attrib.*] coming at the beginning of something: initial: she stole the show with her opening remark.

► **opening night** ► *n.* the first night of a theatrical play or other entertainment.

► **open in-ter-est** ► *n.* Finance the number of contracts or commitments outstanding in futures and options that are trading on an official exchange at any one time.

► **open letter** ► *n.* a letter, often critical, addressed to a particular person or group of people but intended for publication.

► **open line** ► *n.* a means of easy access or communication: to keep an open line to the White House.

► *adj.* denoting a radio or television program in which the public can participate by telephone: the open-line portion of his daily radio show.

► **open-ly** /'öpənli/ ► *adv.* without concealment, deception, or prevarication, esp. where these might be expected; frankly or honestly: he could no longer speak openly of his problems. ► Old English *openlice* (see **OPEN**, -LY2).

► **open market** ► *n.* (often the **open market**) an unrestricted market with free access by and competition of buyers and sellers.

► **open marriage** ► *n.* a marriage in which both partners agree that each may have sexual relations with others.

► **open mike** ► *n.* a microphone that is in use. ■ [often

as *adj.*] a session in a club during which anyone is welcome to sing or perform stand-up comedy.

► **open-minded** ► *adj.* willing to consider new ideas; unprejudiced. — **open-minded-ly** *adv.* — **open-minded-ness** *n.*

► **open-mouthed** ► *adj.* with the mouth open, as in surprise or excitement: open-mouthed astonishment.

► **open-necked** ► *adj.* (of a dress shirt) worn with the collar unbuttoned and without a tie.

► **open outcry** ► *n.* a system of financial trading in which dealers shout their bids and contracts aloud.

► **open-pit** ► *adj.* denoting a method of mining in which coal or ore is extracted at or from a level near the earth's surface, rather than from underground workings.

► **open-plan** ► *adj.* (of a building or floor plan) having large open areas with few or no internal dividing walls: an open-plan office.

► **open primary** ► *n.* a primary election in which voters are not required to declare party affiliation.

► **open question** ► *n.* a matter on which differences of opinion are possible; a matter not yet decided.

► **open range** ► *n.* a large area of grazing land without fences or other barriers.

► **open-reel** ► *adj.* (of an audiotape recorder) having reels of tape requiring individual threading, as distinct from a cassette.

► **open road** ► *n.* a road or highway allowing easy travel, esp. one outside an urban area. ■ a path or course of action without care or hindrance.

► **open sea** ► *n.* (usu. the **open sea**) an expanse of sea away from land.

► **open season** ► *n.* [*in sing.*] a period when restrictions on the hunting of certain types of wildlife are lifted. ■ a period when all restrictions on a particular activity or product are abandoned or ignored: an hour before departure, it's open season on all remaining seats.

► **open se-cret** ► *n.* a supposed secret that is in fact known to many people.

► **open ses-a-me** ► *n.* a free or unrestricted means of admission or access: academic success is not an automatic open sesame to the job market. [from the magic formula in the tale of Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves (see **ALI BABA**)]

► **open shop** ► *n.* a system whereby employees in a place of work are not required to join a labor union. Compare with **CLOSED SHOP**, **UNION SHOP**. ■ a place of work following such a system.

► **open so-ci-ety** ► *n.* a society characterized by a flexible structure, freedom of belief, and wide dissemination of information.

► **open stock** ► *n.* merchandise, esp. china, silverware, and glassware, that is sold in sets and kept in stock so that customers can purchase or replace individual pieces.

► **open sys-tem** ► *n.* 1 Computing a system in which the components and protocols conform to standards independent of a particular supplier. 2 Physics a material system in which mass or energy can be lost to or gained from the environment.

► **open-toed** ► *adj.* (of a shoe) having an upper that does not cover the toes.

► **open ver-dict** ► *n.* Law a verdict of a coroner's jury affirming the occurrence of a suspicious death but not specifying the cause.

► **open-work** /'öpən,wɜ:k/ ► *n.* [*usu.* as *adj.*] ornamental work in cloth, metal, leather, or other material with regular patterns of openings and holes.

► **op-er-a** /'öp(ə)rə/ ► *n.* a dramatic work in one or more acts, set to music for singers and instrumentalists. ■ such works as a genre of classical music. ■ a building for the performance of opera. ► mid 17th cent.: from Italian, from Latin, literally 'labor, work'.

► **op-er-a** ► plural form of **OPUS**.

► **op-er-a-ble** /'öp(ə)rəbəl/ ► *adj.* 1 able to be used: the storm left only one operable voice channel. 2 able to be treated by means of a surgical operation: operable breast cancer. ► mid 17th cent.: from late Latin *operabilis*, from Latin *operari* 'expend labor on' (see **OPERATE**). — **op-er-a-bil-ity** /'öp(ə)rə'biliti/ *n.*

► **op-er-a bouffe** /'öp(ə)rə 'bɒʃt; 'öpərə/ ► *n.* (pl. **op-er-as bouffes** pronounced same) a French comic opera, with dialogue in recitative and characters drawn from everyday life. ■ such works as a genre. ► French, from Italian (see **OPERA BUFFA**).

► **op-er-a buff-a** /'öp(ə)rə 'bʊʃə; 'öpərə/ ► *n.* a comic opera, typically in Italian, esp. one with characters drawn from everyday life. ■ such works as a genre. ► Italian.